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G Johnson  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Alan J. Kirby et al Art Unit: 2202  
Serial No.: 08/963,512 Examiner:  
Filed : November 3, 1997  
Title : TRANSFERRING ENCRYPTED PACKETS OVER A PUBLIC  
NETWORK

**Box Non-Fee Amendment**  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**RECEIVED**  
FEB 23 1998

**GROUP 2200**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of handling network packets, comprising:

B1  
receiving an encrypted network [packets] packet from [the] an external network at a [network interface] first computer; and

determining whether to decrypt the encrypted network packet at the first computer or to pass [passing] the encrypted network [packets] packet to a computer on a[n] network that is internal [network] with respect to the first computer for decryption.

Date of Deposit February 9, 1998  
I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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